

AGENT REPORT

(SR 380-320-10)

1. NAME OF SUBJECT OR TITLE OF INCIDENT

US Personnel in Soviet Custody (U)

2. DATE SUBMITTED

20 November 1957

3. CONTROL SYMBOL OF FILE NUMBER

XE-030477

4. REPORT OF FINDINGS

On 15 November 1957, Juergen Schmidt, a German national and repatriated political prisoner, born 3 March 1928 in Berlin (UU9220), Germany, presently residing at Benediktinerstrasse 12, Berlin-Frohnau (French Sector), was interviewed concerning (Fnu) Schwartz, an alleged American in Soviet custody, and stated substantially as follows:

Schmidt served in the VOPD (Volkspolizei - People's Police) from 1948 to November 1949, when he fled to West Berlin. While processing as a refugee, Schmidt was sent by British officials to his residence in Potsdam (UU6807), GDR (German Democratic Republic) in order to get some official documents. While he was in Potsdam, Schmidt was arrested by Soviet security police. Schmidt was tried and sentenced to 25 years in a Soviet corrective labor camp. From October 1950 to November 1955, Schmidt served his sentence in labor camps in Vorkuta (nca) and Gorki (nca), USSR. Schmidt and other German prisoners were repatriated in November 1955, and Schmidt returned to Nauen (UU5630), GDR, where he has relatives. From January 1956 to November 1957, Schmidt was employed in Nauen and Elstal (nca), GDR, as a movie-projectionist. Schmidt's supervisor tried to force Schmidt to join the Communist Party, but Schmidt refused and fled to West Berlin.

In 1951, while Schmidt was in Camp 6 in Vorkuta, he was introduced to an American officer, Major (Fnu) Schwartz, by Hans Niedermeir, a German national, formerly a major in a German armored division. Schmidt believes that Schwartz' first name is Robert. Schwartz spoke only English and Russian at the time, and Schmidt spoke only German. Therefore, most of the information received from Schwartz was told to Schmidt or interpreted for him by Niedermeir. Schmidt describes Schwartz as 51 to 56 years old, 5'10" to 6' tall, 165 to 175 pounds, dark hair, dark complexion, poor, protruding teeth with one (1) upper front tooth missing. Schwartz habitually smoked a pipe. Schmidt played chess and cards with Schwartz. Schwartz worked in the building housing the machinery which operated the coal mine, which led Schmidt to believe that Schwartz had some special mechanical training or ability.

Prior to his capture and imprisonment, Schwartz had been a major in the US Army, stationed in Frankfurt (MA7752), GFR (German Federal Republic), and a member of the CIC (Counter Intelligence Corps). Schwartz was kidnapped by Soviet security police in 1949 in Kassel, (NB3585), GFR, while Schwartz and another employee or member of the CIC, name unknown, were traveling in an automobile. Schwartz knew or suspected the individual with whom he was traveling to be an agent of a Soviet intelligence agency. Other details regarding Schwartz are unknown, and Schwartz is

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5. TYPED NAME AND ORGANIZATION OF SPECIAL AGENT

WILLIAM H. HALL, 66th CIC Group

6. SIGNATURE OF SPECIAL AGENT

6-19 William H. Hall

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saw Schwartz in 1952.

Niedermeir, repatriated in September 1955, was better-acquainted with Schwartz than Schmidt was. Niedermeir formerly lived in Hamburg (NE6843), GFR, where his father, name unknown, owned a furniture factory. Another prisoner at Vorkuta, Guenther Galland, repatriated in 1955, who formerly resided in Dresden (VS1156), GDR, also knew Schwartz at Vorkuta. The present addresses of Niedermeir or Galland are unknown to Schmidt, although Schmidt believes that Niedermeir returned to Hamburg and intended to return to army service.

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